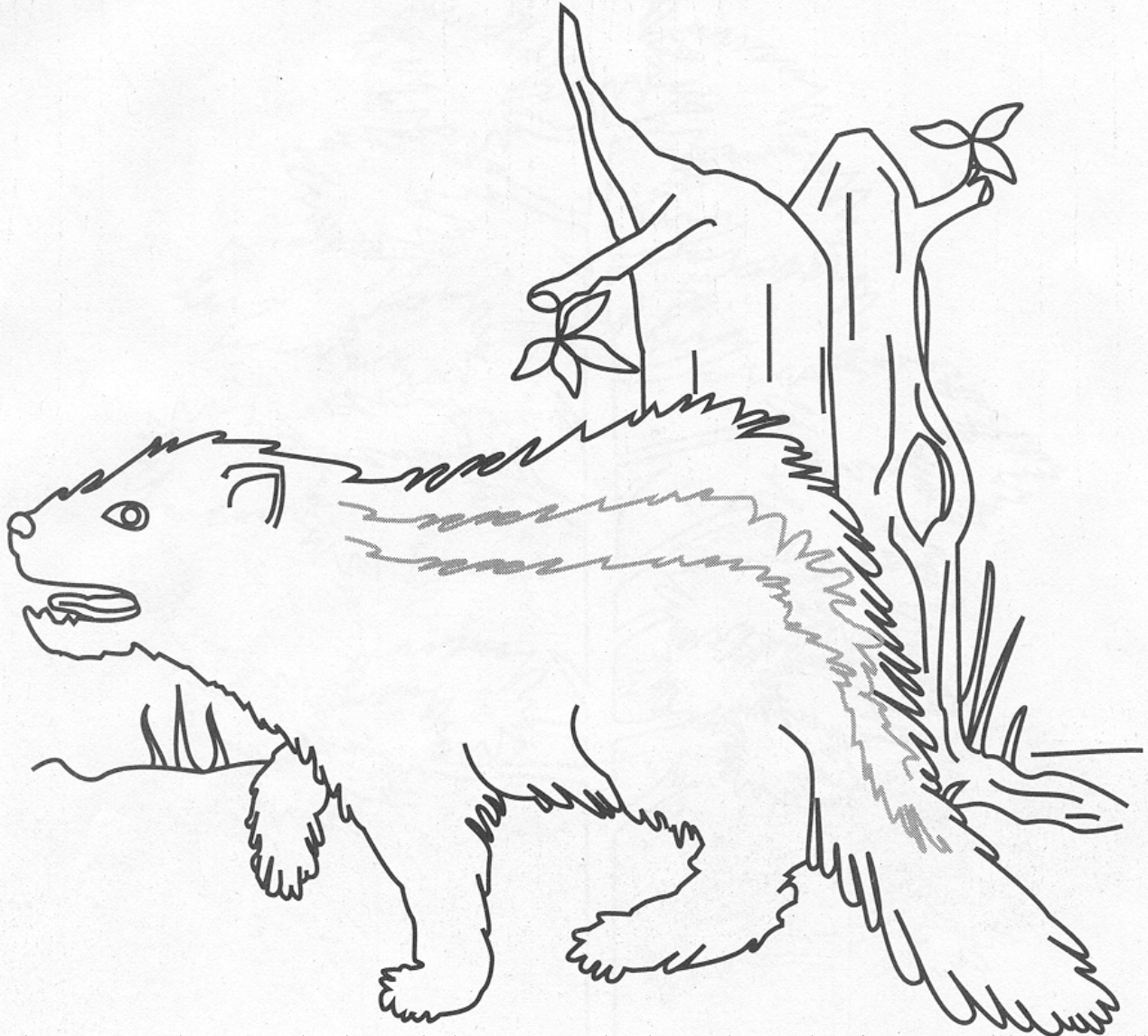


State Nickname

"The Wolverine State"



With a heavy, cumbersome body and short muscular legs, the wolverine resembles a small bear. The two light chestnut stripes extending along its dark brown sides from the shoulders to the base of a hairy tail give it a strikingly skunk-like appearance. The wolverine and the skunk both belong to the weasel family, the wolverine being the largest member at thirty-five to forty-four inches long, including its bushy tail. Neither the skunk nor the bear can match the vicious disposition and destructive capabilities of the wolverine.

The bad temper and destructive habits of the wolverine have made it very unpopular with humans. Never found in great numbers, even in Canada and Alaska, where the climate is best suited to their tastes, the wolverine population has dwindled alarmingly. Just how Michigan came to be known as "the Wolverine State" is subject to many theories, particularly since most experts agree that if the wolverine was ever present in Michigan, it was never here in abundance.